

Russia CCG

I

## **Standards Overview**

Despite positive changes in the last several years, the standards regime in Russia still lacks transparency. Russia continues to rely on product testing as a key element of the product approval process. Other types of product safety assurance, such as plant auditing, quality systems, and post market vigilance, are underdeveloped. Russia continues to adhere to redundant practices of further testing of internationally accepted certified products which can delay entry of a variety of products into the country.

In addition, the former federal authority on standardization, Gosstandart, was restructured twice as part of a larger government reorganization begun in March 2004, which led to some uncertainty as to exactly who in the agency did what, further adding to delays in discharging its functions. The current authority for standardization, metrology and certification matters is the Federal Agency for Technical Regulations and Metrology under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Industry and Energy. However, the old name for this agency, Gosstandart, remains in use. Affiliated with this new agency are 462 Technical Committees, comprised of research institutes which develop standards. Russia has a three-year plan for standards development that is published on the Federal Agency for Technical Regulations' website, [www.gost.ru](http://www.gost.ru)

## **Standards Organizations**

Russia's complicated, cumbersome and often changing system of certification as well as cultural and language barriers create a challenge to foreign companies attempting to certify products without appropriate legal advice or assistance from experienced distributors or consultants.

The Department of Technical Regulations and Metrology estimate that Russia must develop approximately 2,000 technical regulations by 2010. The current plan consists of 146 technical regulations which are to be developed by 2006.

U.S. companies are recommended to work with reliable partners and consulting companies on registration and certification issues.

### ***Standards Organizations In Russia:***

The Federal Agency for Technical Regulations and Metrology

Grigory Iosifovich Elkin, Head

9, Leninsky Prospect

Moscow 119991 Russia

Phone: 7-095-236-0300

Fax: 7-095-236-62-31

E-mail: [info@gost.ru](mailto:info@gost.ru), [www.gost.ru](http://www.gost.ru)

Rostest Moscow

Russian Center for Tests and Certification

31 Nakhimovsky Prospekt,

Moscow 117418 Russia

Phone: 7-095-129-1911, 332-6777, 129-5936.

Fax: 7-095-124-9996.

E-mail: [admtest@rostest-m.msk.ru](mailto:admtest@rostest-m.msk.ru), [www.rostest.ru](http://www.rostest.ru)

VNIKI (Russian Institute for Comprehensive Information on Certification and Quality)

4, Granatny Pereulok  
Moscow 103001 Russia  
Phone: 7-095-290-5569  
5/2/2005  
Fax: 7-095-203-2598, 203-9517  
E-mail: [kpl@vniiki.ru](mailto:kpl@vniiki.ru), [www.viiki.ru](http://www.viiki.ru)  
VNIIS (Research Institute for Certification)  
3/10, Elektrichesky Pereulok  
Moscow 123557 Russia  
Phone: 7-095-253-7006, 253-0078  
Fax: 7-095-253-3360  
E-mail: [vniis@vniis.ru](mailto:vniis@vniis.ru), [www.vniis.ru](http://www.vniis.ru)  
Russian Standard (general representative of ROSTEST for North America)  
305 E. Walnut Street, Suite 110  
Springfield, MO 65806, USA  
Phone: (417) 799-0650  
Fax: (417) 873-9110  
E-mail: [mail@rosstandard.com](mailto:mail@rosstandard.com), [www.rosstandard.com](http://www.rosstandard.com)

***For Telecommunications Equipment:***

Ministry of Informatization and Communications of the RF  
Ms. Lyudmila Yurasova  
Deputy Head of Federal Agency  
7 Tverskaya Street  
Moscow, Russia  
Tel: 7-095-771-8573  
Fax: 7-095-771-8734  
E-mail: [sertifik@ptti.gov.ru](mailto:sertifik@ptti.gov.ru), [www.english.minsvyaz.ru](http://www.english.minsvyaz.ru)

***For Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment:***

Federal Service for Surveillance in the Sphere of Healthcare and Social Development  
(Roszdravnadzor)  
1 Birzhevaya Street  
Moscow 109012  
Tel.: 7-095-298-1470  
Fax: 7-095-298-5049  
<http://www.roszdravnadzor.ru>  
Pharminform  
Vladimir Makarov, Financial Director  
3/5 Sushevsky Val  
Entrance 1, Floor 6  
Tel.: 7-095-797-4963  
Fax: 7-095-797-4963  
E-mail: [info@post.pharminform.ru](mailto:info@post.pharminform.ru), [www.pharminform.ru](http://www.pharminform.ru)

***For Building and Construction Materials:***

Federal Agency for Construction and Housing Complex, Federal Licensing Center  
8, Stroiteley St., Bldg.2  
Moscow 119991  
5/2/2005  
Phone/fax: 7-095-206-5735, 9494 or 9404

E-mail: [fcc@certif.org](mailto:fcc@certif.org), [www.gosstrov.gov.ru](http://www.gosstrov.gov.ru)

## **Conformity Assessment**

In recent years there has been a substantial movement toward the adoption of common international language on product standards and certification procedures and some improvements have been made. In 1998 the Russian Government established a public information service for regulations covered by the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement in the World Trade Organization (WTO); however, technical difficulties have plagued this service and it has not been an easily accessible or reliable source of information. On July 31, 1998, new amendments to Russia's Law on Certification of Products and Services went into effect, which Russia claims generally meet requirements of the TBT Agreement. The law allows a manufacturer to submit a declaration of conformity in the certification procedure for a limited number of products. The government has established a list of 200 products eligible for this procedure. Russian standards and certifications bodies worked closely with the U.S.-Russian Business Council, the American Chamber of Commerce in Russia, and several U.S. Government agencies in order to become acquainted with international practice in this area and the concerns of international companies. As a result, approximately 35% of 25,000 Russian standards now conform to international norms, and many deficiencies in the standards and certification process have been removed.

Russian officials claim that with adoption of the federal law "On Technical Regulations" which came into force on July 1, 2003, the certification situation has improved. The law was intended to change the existing cumbersome standardization and certification systems and to harmonize the Russian legislation with international standards. In addition, the intent was to establish a transparent system for adoption of standards and to reduce significantly the number of requirements and steps in the certification process for imported goods. The Government has established a 7-year transition period for technical regulations reform to be completed. Over this period, all mandatory standards requirements must be transformed into technical regulations, and remaining standards will become voluntary. This monumental task will require the development and enactment of several thousand laws and regulations. Current technical regulations will remain in effect until new ones have been developed and approved by the government, or until the end of the 7-year transition period.

### ***LIST OF CERTIFICATION SERVICE PROVIDERS AND ACCREDITED LABORATORIES IN THE UNITED STATES:***

**Accreditation Velosi America, LLC**

[www.velosi-usa.com](http://www.velosi-usa.com)

Industry Specializations: Oil & gas, petrochemical and refining industries.

**Information Handling Services Inc. (IHS)**

[www.ihs.com](http://www.ihs.com)

Industry Specializations: Developing and implementing engineering, technical, and regulatory information solutions.

**Nemko USA, Inc.**

[www.nemko.com](http://www.nemko.com)

Industry Specializations: GOSTANDART certification, safety, electromagnetic

compatibility and hygiene. NEMKO is the only lab in the U.S. authorized to conduct Russian hygienic testing. NEMKO also provides the Russian fire safety certificate.

**Russian Standard, Russian Certification Center**

[www.rosstandard.com](http://www.rosstandard.com), [www.rosintorg.com](http://www.rosintorg.com)

Industry Specializations: Russian Standard represents Russian GOST-R certification authorities and the Certification Center of the Russian Ministry of Public Health.

**TUV America Inc.**

[www.TUVamerica.com](http://www.TUVamerica.com)

Industry Specializations: Information technology, including telecommunications, computers, printers and other equipment. TUV can also offer manufacturers access to safety approvals, EMC testing and certification, and quality audits and certification to ISO 9001 and 14000.

**TUV Rheinland**

[www.us.tuv.com/certify/russia.html](http://www.us.tuv.com/certify/russia.html)

Industry Specializations: Information technology equipment, industrial machinery, household appliances and medical/scientific equipment. TUV Rheinland can also assist clients in obtaining Russian telecommunications certification, and in obtaining Gosgortekhnadzor (GGTN), hygienic and other licenses/permits.

**Underwriters Laboratories (UL)**

[www.ul.com](http://www.ul.com)

Industry Specializations: Information technology equipment (ITE), electrical-electronic apparatus, laboratory and measurement equipment, household/commercial appliances and hazardous location equipment. In addition to safety and EMC, UL can provide assistance in obtaining a Hygienic Certificate, "Fire Safety" Certificate, etc. through its Intermediate Applicant Service.

## **Product Certification**

Many products imported for sale into the Russian Federation are required to have a certificate of conformity issued by The Federal Agency for Technical Regulations. The Agency currently tests and certifies products according to Russian Government standards rather than other widely-accepted international standards (e.g., the ISO-9000 system). The Federal Agency for Technical Regulations and its authorized agents are chief sources for certification in Russia. However, other agencies are involved in certification of certain products, including the Ministry of Agriculture (food products) the Ministry of Health (medical devices and pharmaceuticals), the State Communications Committee (telecommunications equipment and services), the State Mining and Industrial Inspectorate GOSGORTECHNADZOR (equipment for mining, oil and gas industries) and others.

Russia participates in the following international certification systems:

- System of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) for tests of electrical equipment on conformity to safety standards
- System of certification of passenger cars, trucks, buses and other transport vehicles (UN EEC)
- System of certification of handguns and ammunition
- System of certification of electronic articles (IEC)

- International system of certification of metrology equipment and instruments
- Agreement on mutual recognition of tests of imported aircraft and certification of elements of airplanes
- UN International Navigation Organization (Navigation Safety Convention).

As of January 1, 2005 the Federal Register of Gosstandart of Russia listed 31 systems of mandatory certification (national) and 65 systems of voluntary certification. The list of accredited certification authorities and test laboratories is published on The website of The Federal Agency for Technical Regulations and Metrology [www.gost.ru](http://www.gost.ru) (in the Russian language).

### **Accreditation**

Presently in Russia, various federal executive authorities carry out accreditation in accordance with the relevant legislation. Bureaucratic incongruities, overlapping fields of activity and the application of different procedures and criteria in the accreditation process are common occurrences. Often, the accreditation and certification activities of several federal executive authorities are superimposed.

Certification authorities and test laboratories, both Russian and foreign, are accredited in accordance with ISO/IEC Guideline 5 and ISO/IEC Standard 17025.

Currently, each individual Ministry, Gosstandart of Russia and The Research Institute for Certification (VNIIS) can accredit laboratories in their relevant industry sectors.

GOSSTANDART of Russia runs the state register of all accredited organizations.

The Department of Technical Regulations and Metrology is currently developing legislation on accreditation of organizations that assess compliance with technical regulations. It is still undecided as to whether the system of a single accreditation body or a number of such bodies will be most efficient in Russia.

### **Publication of Technical Regulations**

Proposed technical regulations are published (in Russian) on the Federal Agency for Technical Regulations and Metrology's website [www.gost.ru](http://www.gost.ru) for two months. Any Russian or foreign entity may comment in Russian to the contact listed on the website. Draft and final documents are published in the monthly "Vestnik of Gosstandart of Russia" journal. This journal is an official publication of the Federal Agency for Technical Regulations and Metrology. The journal publishes official documents of the Agency: instructions, rules, decrees, etc. "Vestnik of Gosstandart of Russia" is the country's effort to ensure transparency in the development of national standards required for WTO compliance. WTO membership assumes that all changes in the standardization system will be transparent, thereby avoiding hidden obstacles (non-tariff barriers) in trading relations with WTO partners.

### **Labeling and Marking**

Please see the "Labeling and Marking" section above. For additional information regarding labeling and marking requirements, please contact:

Foreign Commercial Service- Moscow  
Luba Savchenko, Commercial Specialist  
23/38 B. Milchanovka, Bldg. 2  
Tel: 7-095-737-5028  
Fax: 7-095-737-5033

E-mail: [Luba.Savchenko@mail.doc.gov](mailto:Luba.Savchenko@mail.doc.gov)  
ROSTEST-MOSCOW  
Russian Center for Tests and Certification, GOSSTANDART  
31 Nakhimovsky Prospekt,  
Moscow 117418 Russia  
Phone: 7-095-129-1911, 332-6777, 129-5936.  
Fax: 7-095-124-9996.  
E-mail: [admtest@rostest-m.msk.ru](mailto:admtest@rostest-m.msk.ru), [www.rostest.ru](http://www.rostest.ru)

### **Trade Agreements**

Russia currently participates in a free trade agreement with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), which comprises most of the countries of the former Soviet Union. A customs union with Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan has been formed, but is not operational. Russia has an association agreement with the European Union (effective December 1997), proposes to join the World Trade Organization, and has historically received MFN and GSP status from the United States. As of mid-June 2002, the U.S. Department of Commerce designated Russia a market economy. This has had a positive impact on investment and trade between the two countries.

### **Web Resources**

#### **Bureau of Industry & Security, U.S. Department of Commerce:**

Main site: [www.bis.doc.gov](http://www.bis.doc.gov)

Export Controls: [www.bis.doc.gov/licensing/exportingbasics.htm](http://www.bis.doc.gov/licensing/exportingbasics.htm)

Possible Violations: [www.bis.doc.gov/enforcement/redflags.htm](http://www.bis.doc.gov/enforcement/redflags.htm)

Forms: [www.bis.doc.gov/forms/eeleadsntips.html](http://www.bis.doc.gov/forms/eeleadsntips.html)

#### **Russian State Customs Committee Websites:**

[www.custom.ru](http://www.custom.ru), [www.gtk.ru](http://www.gtk.ru) or [www.tks.ru](http://www.tks.ru)

#### **Russian Ministry for Economic Development and Trade**

[www.economy.gov.ru](http://www.economy.gov.ru)

[Return to table of contents](#)